

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell and Mabel Hubbard Bell, December 10, 1877, with transcript

Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., Can., December 10th, 77. (No envelope) My dear Al. and May,

A merry and happy Christmas to you and many of them! I prophesied some time ago that you would come home at the end of six months, or sooner, we shall see. I fancy you will find housekeeping under your present circumstances a great bother and a heavy expense.

Every friend I meet congratulates me on the success of the telephone in England. The fact of Government patronage seems to be universally known. I shall be glad to learn particulars. Thanks for the Times and Engineer's Journal. Both articles are very gratifying. Matters move slowly here. I have been thinking of a lecture on the telephone to give things a push ahead. I shall probably carry out the idea next month. Mr. Fluker, Sen. died a few weeks ago and Henry now carries on the business alone. I have perfect confidence in him and I have no doubt that Mary Horne's interests are safe in his hands. I do not see that there could have been a larger surplus for a few years than he has been allowing Mar y. Of course he should render an account and he doubtless will when his outlays are cleared off. I suppose you will soon be crossing the Channel to attend to business in France in accordance with Mr. Hubbard's fortunate arrangement. What about the new plan for a magneto-call?

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We are still using the induction call for want of an efficient magneto-instrument. This has kept us back very much. We have only 22 instruments leased as yet!

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Give my love to Sophie and Chester with all the good wishes of the season. Success to you and a speedy return!

Your affectionate father, Alex. Melville Bell.